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ABSTRACT

This report describes the partnership between Carl Sandburg (Community) College (CSC) district and local K-12 schools in Galesburg, Illinois. Because 33% of students graduating from these K-12 schools enroll at CSC, the college considers institutional collaboration important in preparing future students and serving the community. CSC established the Sandburg Educational Network (SEN) to help develop technology infrastructures at K-12 institutions. Technology is presented as a useful tool for teaching and creating a student-centered learning environment. SEN consists of various programs such as the Sandburg Teaching/Learning Initiative, which offers workshops to teachers to show them how to incorporate technology into their classrooms. Here, teachers are exposed to practical applications of technology that promote active student learning. Workshop participants have responded positively, and more than 50% of the teachers in attendance reported continued use and incorporation of technology in their classrooms. From this initiative, additional services have been proposed, which include the Sandburg Hosting Services, Sandburg Connection, and Sandburg e-XPRESS, which function to support the schools' administrative software, offer distance-learning classes to qualified high school students, and establish learning centers within K-12 schools, respectively. Appended is a PowerPoint presentation. (JCC)

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Community College and K-12 Partnerships

The challenges facing educators worldwide have never been greater. As developing nations work to build their economies and industrialized nations endeavor to maintain their infrastructures, virtually everyone looks to education as the foundation for future economic prosperity. A highly educated and skilled workforce is increasingly important at a time when technology is intensifying global competition. The Internet fosters these changes by giving the classroom a window on the world and can enable students to exchange ideas and information with their counterparts everywhere.

Technology-rich schools have shifted some of the educational process from teacher-centered instruction to student-centered learning, principally through the use of the Internet, which facilitates and even accelerates students' exploration and investigation of topics they are studying. In this student-centered learning environment, students are responsible for their own learning and are encouraged to use technology to follow individualized paths of learning. This process supports the development of life-long learning skills. This paradigm shift calls for teachers to emphasize cooperative learning and project-based activities, thereby becoming facilitators rather than simply the purveyors of information. They must now help students navigate through the knowledge made available by information technology. Technology

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becomes the tool that assists the teacher in creating a learning environment that is interactive, collaborative, multidisciplinary, and exploratory.

To help K-12 schools, cope with the challenge of the new education model, Carl Sandburg College (CSC) in Galesburg, Illinois, offers a wide array of products and services at little or no cost to the districts or teachers. The mission of Carl Sandburg College is to "Provide accessible, quality education in a caring environment by keeping the learner's needs at the center of decision making and by working in partnership with communities of the college district". Serving the K-12 schools is an important aspect of Carl Sandburg College's service to our community.

Carl Sandburg College is a community college district which covers 3000 square miles and has a population of approximately 117,000 people. There are twenty-six K-12 schools within CSC's Community College District (CCD). Because of the low income, literacy and rural location of the district, most of the K-12 schools are not equipped well enough to deliver education through the latest technology available. Since 33% of the students graduating from these schools enroll in Carl Sandburg College, a need to reach out to these students early on when they were still in high school was identified. Exposing teachers to the latest technology and educating them on its effective use in the classroom was agreed to be the most effective method to raise the technology competency level of these students.

Sandburg Educational Network (SEN) was formed in May of 2000 to provide a holistic solution to the technology needs of the K-12 schools within the district. Most of these schools did not have a technology infrastructure or the people qualified to impart use technology as a teaching

tool. The schools simply could not afford it. Moreover, with the decline in enrollment that most of these school districts are experiencing, they are receiving less funding from the Government, and a number of districts are facing consolidation.

When Sandburg Educational Network was formed, the only service that was provided was the Technology Workshops through the Teaching/Learning Initiative.

Sandburg Teaching/Learning Initiative: Through this initiative, workshops were conducted for K-12 teachers throughout the district to teach them how to use technology effectively in their classrooms. Two kinds of workshops were conducted: 1. Web Site Design and Publishing workshop and 2. Web Course Management using WebCT. These workshops run for fifteen hours each and are conducted on two consecutive Saturdays or five 3 hours classes on weekdays. These workshops which are conducted either in the schools or at a community based technology center have proven to be very effective and have sparked the interest of teachers from all grade levels and subjects. Carl Sandburg College instructors who use these tools in their classrooms teach the classes. These workshops have been particularly effective because instructors, and not technical people, teach them incorporating a lot of hands-on work. Teachers bring in their work and get most of their work done by the end of the workshop. In one of the workshops, a High School Journalism teacher brought material that she wanted her students to work on. By the end of the workshop, she had all her assignments online. The following week, she took her students in the computer lab and had them work on the assignments. The response she got from her students was phenomenal. The students wanted to know if they could access the material from home and work on it!! The surveys handed out to the teachers at the end of the workshop suggest that they learnt some new pedagogical techniques in the workshops. Follow up conversations with the

teachers after they have used the tools in their classroom confirm that more students participate in this new learning technique.

After the workshop is over, the teachers are given mentor and technical support when they need them. They are also encouraged to come and work with the SEN staff at their Web Development Department for further guidance and to improve their skills. The main goal of these workshops is to present technology as a solution to their classroom needs and be as non-technical and simple as possible. The work done by these teachers is also hosted on our servers, at their request, so they don't have to worry about finding a server to host or to troubleshoot the servers. This service is offered at no cost to the school districts.

As these workshops were conducted, the staff and instructors of SEN learned more about the teachers and the technology needs of their schools, and a broader view of the technology needs that go hand in hand with the teaching/learning initiative emerged. The following are the services that have been proposed:

Sandburg Hosting Services: This fee-based service hosts the schools administrative software on CSC's central servers and provides them with Applications Hosting Support and Report Generation. The fee covers just the expenses incurred in providing the hosting service. Schools need to have PC's that have access to the Internet to take advantage of this service. The administrative software to maintain student records, grades, attendance, personnel and payroll records can be accessed securely through our Virtual Private Network (VPN). Internet access is provided free to the schools through the Illinois Century Network (ICN), which is an initiative of the Illinois School Board of Education.

The Sandburg Connection: This service offers distance-learning classes to qualified high school students in their high schools. Through this program, high school students can enroll and take college level courses to reduce the time and money spent in getting an undergraduate degree. The Sandburg Connection offers a wide array of courses that the students can enroll in depending upon the career path they choose to take. All the equipment on both sides to support this technology is provided. This initiative is funded through the Western Illinois Education Consortium (WIEC). A few students who took advantage of this service in the last year were able to complete an entire year's worth of College classes when they were still in High School and were able to enroll into their sophomore year at Western Illinois University.

Sandburg e-XPRESS: There is a proposal to establish mini learning centers within the K-12 schools and equip them with state of the art technology of which teachers and students may take advantage. These centers will have computers, printers, scanners, smart boards and high speed Internet access. In addition, these learning centers will have tutors, career guidance, and technology support available. The purpose of this initiative is to bring awareness into the K-12 schools and the communities they serve, regarding both, the value of education and the uses of technology to enhance teaching and learning. In the past CSC has established two Technology Centers, the Educational Technology Center (ETC) in Galesburg, Illinois and the Education Commons (EdComms) in Carthage, Illinois. These technology centers were established in partnership with local industry and educational institutions. The ETC is a partnership between Carl Sandburg College, Community Unit School District 205 and Knox College, a four year private liberal arts college. The EdComms is a partnership between Carl Sandburg College and

Community Unit School District 338. These technology centers not only serve the needs of the students and teachers in their respective communities, but serve the public as well.

More than fifty percent of the teachers who have attended the workshops use the technology in their classrooms. Since the workshops are hands-on and plenty of practical work time is given, each teacher receives the individual assistance with pedagogical strategies for their classroom and the subjects that they teach. The School Boards have been very supportive of this initiative. Since most of the school districts and public libraries have high speed Internet Access, the accessibility of Internet does not seem to be a major issue. The College has made a commitment to sustain funding for this initiative since it falls within its mission. Strong focus is also being placed on training trainers within each school district who will in turn offer regular workshops within their districts and provide them with day to day assistance with the technology.

Problems

There are two major issues that were crucial to the success of the program:

1. Support from K-12 Administrators: The administrators felt that it was too much to ask of the teachers to attend these workshops and use web based supplements to their classroom instruction when the teachers were already overloaded with their current work. To the contrary, teachers who have attended the workshops and created web based assignments and supplements have reported back that this mode of instruction has actually saved them time and helps them teach more efficiently. Moreover, they observed an increase in participation and interest level of their students when they augmented their classroom teaching with web based supplements.

2. Schedule Conflict: It was difficult to find days and times that were convenient for the teachers across the district. There are two ways we are addressing this issue: First, by offering the classroom workshop online, the teachers can take the workshops from the comfort of their home and at their own pace. This has enhanced the participation several fold. Second, by working with the different school districts and SEN conducts workshops on their premises during their scheduled workshop days.

To better serve the technology needs of the K-12 schools, an Advisory Committee consisting of teachers and administrators from the K-12 school districts has been formed recently. The input received from the Advisory Committee suggests that we work with the Regional Offices of Education and Learning Technology Centers in our district to more effectively reach the teachers. We have started working with the Regional Office of Education in Knox County. In the last three workshops, ROE 33 provided the stipend for the teachers attending this workshop. A database is being developed by Center for the Application of Information Technologies out of Western Illinois University, of all the courses available for the K-12 teachers within our district. This database will also keep track of the courses that the teachers take and audit their re-certification requirements and offer them suggestions as to what kinds of courses they need to fulfill the requirements.

Sandburg Educational Network has planned a Cyber Camp for the K-12 teachers in August 2002. This two-day non residential Cyber Camp will be packed with ninety minute sessions of neat technology tools that can be used in the classroom. The timing of the Cyber Camp is such

that it motivates the teachers to be successful when their school reopens after vacation the following week.

There are a total of 2000 teachers across the twenty six school districts, and through various partnerships and workshops, the goal is to reach all the teachers in the next six years.

Replicability of the outcomes at other Community Colleges

We feel that this sort of partnership can be replicated effectively in any community college in Illinois. The details of the partnership might vary depending upon the demographics of the college, but certainly most K-12 schools are ready for partnering with community colleges in some fashion. This was evident in a meeting held at Carl Sandburg College by ICCTA and IASB in February of this year, by the survey results. In addition, the business partnership formed with Net Object Team Fusion and WebCT could be formed with a variety of businesses.

Impact on the Community College System

This project speaks directly to the *Promise to Illinois* and the need for higher education to develop new ideas in partnering with not only elementary and secondary schools, but also with business. Partnerships and projects such as these create win/win situations for all in the state, and the pooling of resources just makes sense for all involved.

Financial viability of resource requirements

As with any new initiative, funding is an issue. But the concept of the Sandburg Educational Network is so compelling that we hope to be recognized by government, state, local agencies and businesses potentially leading to funding through grants and contributions. Since this initiative is

the first of its kind in our state and quite possibly in our country, and the basis of the initiative is solid, we hope to become financially stable in a relatively short amount of time.

For more information on Sandburg Educational Network, visit us at our website at http://www.sandburg.net

Community College and K-12 Partnerships

Samuel Sudhakar
Mary Robson

Nintendo Generation

"The eyes of the school children glisten with anticipation. Their fingers arch lightly over their computer terminals, waiting to tap out solutions to ever more difficult problems appearing on the screens before them.

Any school teacher would be thrilled by such concentration and receptiveness...

Nintendo Generation

...but these children are not in school;
they're playing games in a video arcade.''

-Anonymous

e-ducation

- Challenge for educators
- Foundation for economic prosperity
- Needed to create a highly educated and skilled workforce

Classrooms

- A place for learning, more than reading, writing and arithmetic
- Expanding horizons
- Level playing field
- Enhanced communication

Internet

Date	Invention	Years To Mass Use
•1873	Electricity	46
•1876	Telephone	35
•1886	Gas Automobile	55
•1906	Radio	22
•1926	Television	26
•1975	PC	16
•1983	Mobile Phone	13
•1994	The Web	4

Newsweek, 1998

Paradigm Shift

- Student centered learning increases while retaining teacher-lead instruction
- Students' exploration and investigation of topics

Student Centered Learning...

- Students are more responsible for their own learning
- Use of technology
  - Individualized paths of learning
- Development of lifelong learning skills
- Cooperative learning and project based activities

...Student Centered Learning

- Teachers act as facilitators
- Focus student learning & time on task
- Learning environment becomes interactive, collaborative, multidisciplinary and exploratory
- Promotes critical thinking skills

Some Interesting Facts

- Number of Computers on the planet
  - 1980 – 50,000
  - 2001 – 50,000 units sold every 10 hours around the world
- E-mail users registered worldwide
  - 1985 - 300,000
  - 2001 – 134.6 million users in the U.S alone

Teachers

- "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

  -- Albert Einstein

- "Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself."

  -- Chinese Proverb

The Emerging Student

- Uses technology as a productivity and communications tool
- Engages in a higher level of thinking
- Takes an active role in the learning process

Our Challenge

- Implement the processes to adopt new technology
- Become facilitators, consultants and mentors
- Explore and promote new models of instruction

Mission Statement

The mission of Carl Sandburg College is to provide accessible, quality education in a caring environment by keeping the learners needs at the center of decision making and by working in partnership with communities of the College district

CSC Statistics

- District population - 117,000
- Encompasses 10 counties
- Large, rural area
  - 3,000 square miles
  - 125 miles from one end to another
  - Similar in size to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- Declining population base

District Educational Levels

- 12.7% Bachelor's or higher degree
  - National average is 25%
- 23.7% do not have a high school education
  - National average is 15%

CSC Student Profile

- 6,500 annual student headcount
  - 35% full-time
  - 65% part-time
  - 60% women

K-12 Profile

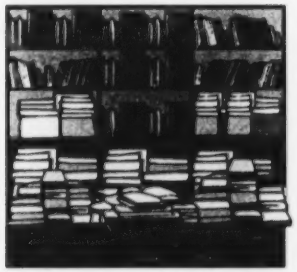
- 19,136 K-12 students district wide
  - 73% college bound seniors
  - 42% CSC bound

CSC District-wide Initiatives

- Educational Technology Center / Educational Commons
- Center for Manufacturing Excellence
- Upward Bound
- Gale Scholars
- College for Kids
- Dual Credit
- Sandburg Educational Network

Sandburg Educational Network

A holistic approach toward providing technological solutions to the the teaching/learning needs of the K-12 Schools within our district.



Services to Our K-12 CUSD's

- Sandburg Learning Services
  - WebCT and NetObjects Fusion workshops
  - Mentor program
  - Technical support
- Sandburg Hosting Services
  - Administrative software hosting
  - State reporting support
  - Maintenance and upgrades

Services to Our K-12 CUSD's

- Sandburg e-XPRESS
  - Sandburg teaching/learning centers
  - Grant support
  - Career guidance and counseling
- Sandburg Connection
  - Compressed audio/video support
  - Wireless networking
  - Volume purchase savings programs

Our Students

- Every child born within our district is a potential Carl Sandburg College student
- Technology at an early age
- Exposure to Carl Sandburg College
- Change of image about community colleges
- Seamless transition between high school and college

Pedagogy meets Technology

"Any successful Faculty Development Program must emphasize how technology can enhance teaching and learning, rather than promoting technology as an end in itself."

-Henryk Marcinkiewicz

Director, Center for Teaching, Learning and Faculty Development
Ferris State University in Michigan

K-12 Teachers

- Technology to aid teaching
- Addresses the lack of resources within the K-12 system
- Brand awareness
- State re-certification requirements

K-12 Administrators

- Growing pressure to
  - Provide more services
  - Professional development for teachers
  - Enforce accountability
  - Provide continuous testing and assessment

Legislation

- Growing trend toward
  - Providing more funding to K-12 schools
  - Requiring accountability
  - Performance-based funding
  - Making them competitive
  - Supporting local initiatives
  - Starting technology learning early

Why CSC?

- Location
- Point Of Presence for IL Century Network
- Expertise in the field of Education
- Expertise in technology
- Technology Infrastructure
- Dedicated support network

Think Big…

…Act Small

Sandburg Educational Network

SN SANDBURG.NET
web based education for West Central Illinois

- Partnership
  - 26 C.U.S.D.'s within our college district
  - Letter of commitment
  - Advisory Committee

Training

- Workshops
  - WebCT
  - NetObjects
- Support / mentoring

Demonstrations

- Sheryl Hinman
  - www.sandburg.net

WebCT

Demonstrations

- Nancy Akers
  - http://www.adams.net/~ssdu/

NETObjects

Our successes

- Conducted 6 workshops
- Involved 9 school districts
- Word is getting out
- “Neat” things beginning to happen

Our Challenges

- Workshop format
  - 2 Saturdays or 5 evenings
- Small, rural schools
  - Teachers wear many hats
  - Limited access to technology
  - Funding
  - Time

Our Vision

- Online workshops
- On site training
- Mini learning centers
- Incentives
  - Palm Pilot
  - $$$ - Grant funding

Our thoughts

- Learning experience for us
- Positive experience
- Synergy created
- Networking
- Don't have to be a "techie"
- Start small….think big
- Time consuming vs. time saving

The Business Model

- Increased enrollment
- Business Partnerships
- Creating brand equity among K-12 schools
- Growing goodwill in the community
- Yearly subscription fees

Results

- Increased student enthusiasm
- Decreased drop out rates
- Increased college bound seniors
- Technology competent freshman
- Less remedial work
- Increased enrollment
- Better teaching in & out of classroom

Good Things

"Good things don't happen by accident, good people make good things happen."

Dr. Joseph Cipfl
President, IL Community
College Board

Our Distinguished Faculty

- Mr. Larry Schroeder
- Mrs. Mary Robson
- Mr. James Graham
- Ms. Cynthia Thompson

Our Technology Team

- Samuel Sudhakar
- Ben Derry
- Fred Johnson
- Michael Kratz

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